

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 144406
ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-15 IO-14 AID-05 EUR-12 OES-07 ACDA-10 /115 R

DRAFTED BY AF/P:BARUSSELL:MR
APPROVED BY AF/P:BARUSSELL
AF/S:DKEOGH

-----037606 220633Z /23

R 212300Z JUN 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

UNCLAS STATE 144406

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: EVANS-NOVAK ARTICLE ON NAMIBIA

1. FOLLOWING IS AN EVANS-NOVAK ARTICLE ON NAMIBIA WHICH
APPEARED IN THE JUNE 18 WASHINGTON POST.

2. NAMIBIA: WHERE POWERS VIE FOR GUERILLAS' FAVOR

WINDHOEK, NAMIBIA-THERE'S A VERY REAL POSSIBILITY THAT
SOUTH AFRICA'S CONCESSIONS TOWARD INDEPENDENCE FOR NAMIBIA
MAY BE SPURNED BY THE POLITICAL FACTION, SWAPO, THAT HAS
BEEN BLESSED BY THE UNITED NATIONS. AND THAT POINTS TO THE
INHERENT VULNERABILITY OF THE NEW U.S. POLICY ON AFRICA.

"EVENTUALLY, THERE WILL HAVE TO BE A MILITARY CONFRONTATION
BETWEEN US AND THE SOUTH AFRICANS FOR THE INDEPENDENCE
OF NAMIBIA (SOUTH WEST AFRICA)," AN AUTHORITATIVE OFFICIAL
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HERE. THAT CONFIRMS WIDESPREAD FEARS THAT SWAPO, ANOINTED
BY THE U.N. TO GOVERN THE NEW NATION OF NAMIBIA, WILL NOT
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THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S NEW POLICY, IGNORING SOVIET

PENETRATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA AND INSTEAD COMPETING WITH THE KREMLIN FOR THE ALLEGIANCE OF BLACK REVOLUTIONARIES, HAS EMBRACED MARXIST, SOVIET-SUPPORTED SWAPO. HOWEVER DUBIOUS FROM THE OUTSET, THAT STRATEGY BECOMES A MAJOR EMBARRASSMENT FOR WASHINGTON IF SWAPO PREFERS BULLETS TO BALLOTS.

PRIME MINISTER JOHN VORSTER'S SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT WANTS TO QUICKLY SHUT OFF AT LEAST THIS SOURCE OF DISPUTE WITH THE WORLD BY ENDING ITS 6-YEAR RULE HERE. VORSTER AGREED THIS MONTH TO DEMANDS BY THE U.S. AND FOUR OTHER WESTERN POWERS FOR A GENERAL ELECTION LEADING TO INDEPENDENCE FOR THIS VAST, DESOLATE AND SPARSELY SETTLED (POP. 900,000) TERRITORY.

HOW TO HANDLE PRETORIA'S UNACCUSTOMED FLEXIBILITY WAS DEBATED BY SWAPO LEADERS IN AN UNMARKED FRAME BUILDING ON A DEAD-END SIDESTREET JUST OFF WINDHOEK'S BUSINESS DISTRICT. BESIDES TALK OF "MILITARY CONFRONTATION," THERE WERE TWO STATEMENTS TO US BY SWAPO LEADERS SUGGESTING AN INCLINATION TO FIGHT INSTEAD OF VOTE.

STATEMENT NO. 1: AS A CONDITION FOR ELECTIONS, SWAPO INSISTS ON REMOVAL OF ALL SOUTH AFRICAN TROOPS-A CONDITION VORSTER WILL NEVER ACCEPT. REMOVING THE TROOPS WOULD CREATE A POWER VACUUM TO BE FILLED BY 2,000 TO 3,000 SWAPO
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GUERRILLAS IN THE NORTH. THOUGH CLUMSILY INEFFECTIVE AGAINST THE SOUTH AFRICAN ARMY, THE GUERRILLAS WOULD SWING THE ELECTION TO SWAPO IF UNRESTRAINED.

STATEMENT NO. 2: THERE IS NO DISTINCTION BETWEEN SUPPOSEDLY NON-IDEOLOGICAL "INTERNAL SWAPO" AND MARXIST "EXTERNAL SWAPO" BASED IN ZAMBIA AND AT THE U.N. SIGNIFICANTLY, "EXTERNAL SWAPO" INSISTS ON "ARMED STRUGGLE."

BEHIND THESE STATEMENTS ARE PRACTICAL POLITICS. RELIABLE OUTSIDE EXPERTS GUESS ELECTORAL STRENGTH IS ROUGHLY 40 PER CENT FOR SWAPO, 40 PER CENT FOR SWAPO'S COMBINED OPPOSITION. THAT'S GOOD ENOUGH ODDS FOR WESTERN POLITICIANS BUT NOT FOR MARXISTS, WHO PREFER THE MORE CERTAIN ROUTE OF GUN-BARREL POLITICS TAKEN IN ANGOLA AND MOZAMBIQUE.

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THE ALTERNATIVE IS THE TURNHALLE GROUP, NAMED FOR THE OLD GERMAN COLONIAL BUILDING HERE WHERE IT MEETS-AN ELECTED COUNCIL OF 11 TRIBAL GROUPS (INCLUDING THE 90,000 WHITES). WHIL: SUSPECT BECAUSE OF SUBSIDIZATION BY SOUTH AFRICA, THE TURNHALLE IS NO RUBBER STAMP FOR PRETORIA. SUCH
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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /011 R

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DRAFTED BY: AF/E:PGSMITH:JJ

APPROVED BY: AF/E:RSPOST

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R 230600Z JUN 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

UNCLAS STATE 144406

FOLLOWING TEL SENT ACTION CAPE TOWN, PRETORIA FROM STATE
JUNE 21:

QUOTE UNCLAS STATE 144406

E.O. 11652: N/A

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Message Attributes

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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 21-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770222-0598
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From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770634/aaaabdnv.tel
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Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 6
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Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
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Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2078393
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EVANS-NOVAK ARTICLE ON NAMIBIA
TAGS: PFOR, SOPN, SF, WA, (NOVAK, ROBERT), (EVANS)
To: CAPE TOWN PRETORIA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b49fe378-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
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